



21 September 2005

Mr. Koichiro Matsuura  
Director General  
UNESCO World Heritage Center  
7, Place de Fontenoy  
75007 Paris, France

Dear Mr. Matsuura,

*I would like to draw your attention to the construction of a dam in Iran. This dam, known as the Sivand Dam, is located on the Sivand River in the central province of Fars, and is due to become operational in early 2006.*

*The close proximity of the dam to the Tomb of Cyrus the Great, Pasargard, which has been designated as Unesco's world heritage, has generated a national as well as international debate regarding the potential danger to Iran's heritage. This dam will cause the submersion of numerous un-excavated archeological sites pertaining to the Achaemenian era.*

*Your urgent appeal to the Islamic Republic of Iran is respectfully requested in order that the filling of the dam be postponed until the historical sites are studied and cleared by archeology experts.*  
Farah Pahlavi